

MARKET TROUBLES.

LARGE MEETING OF THE DEALERS.

**What They Propose to Do—A Discussion on the Sub-
ject of Bonuses on Stall Rents—A State-
ment to the Public of Their
Grievances.**

When the hall was occupied last evening for the stall-owners in the Washington Market for the purpose of hearing a report from a committee on the proposed new building, the following was the case, which was to be submitted to the public.

Dr. John H. Kelly presided, with Mr. W. F. Hunt as secretary. The following report of the committee was first considered, and at the conclusion of the reading was unanimously adopted:

TO THE PUBLIC.

Whereas the Washington Market Company vs. the people. It is due to the public that the facts concerning the proposed new building be made known to the market company to reveal the stalls and stands in said market over the heads of their respective owners, and that the public be enabled to make a choice of the enlightened public opinion may determine the merits of the proposed new building, and the stall-owners, and decide which is in the right. The maintenance of the stalls and stands in said market is rendered not only desirable, but necessary to the business of the market, and the welfare of the stall-owners of the company, wherein no public

EXPENSES, as a pretext to present their views, will not be admitted. It is an incorrect and imprudent method to proceed upon which the Government have uniformly relied to sustain them in resisting the unlawful and unconscionable exactions of this corporation. Let it be known and understood at the outset that the Government will not be a party to all the public markets, must regulate the prices of the commodities they sell in exact proportion to the burdens imposed upon them, and right here is the point where the people are directly concerned.

Prior to 1870 the old Centre Market, which occupied the site of the present market, was a public market under the control of the city, and the rents of stalls therein were reasonable and proper. There was no contest between the stall-holders and the city government. The one held that which was fair and equitable and the

holders and their patrons, the people were alike benefited by the arrangement, and no complaint was uttered by any one.

When the present occupants of stalls in the Washington Market had established their business in the old market and acquired the good will of the great stall at which they severally stood, the business thus established, in many instances being a family business, was transferred to the new market by the act of Congress incorporating the Washington Market Company (May 26, 1870), subordinated to the power of the city authorities conferred upon that company, under the act of Congress, to sell the stalls, and to the fact that the disallow of those limitations of power that the stall-holders oppose the right of the city to sell the stalls to the highest bidder, between them and their patrons to the arbitrary exercise of an unlicensed and unbridled corporation.

First—The market company, by its charter, is limited to a sale of the right to occupy the several stalls in the Washington Market.

This never has been complied with by the company. The rents were fixed in 1872 by the company alone, and marked approved by H. D. Cooke, then governor of the District, and one of the original incorporators of the company. This was in plain violation of the law, and, notwithstanding

The published statements of officers and directors of the company, has never been sustained by the courts. The company's income tax returns for the years 1934-1936, 1938-1940, 1942-1944, 1946-1948, 1950-1952, 1954-1956, 1958-1960, 1962-1964, 1966-1968, 1970-1972, 1974-1976, 1978-1980, 1982-1984, 1986-1988, 1990-1992, 1994-1996, 1998-2000, 2002-2004, 2006-2008, 2010-2012, 2014-2016, 2018-2020, 2022-2024, 2026-2028, 2030-2032, 2034-2036, 2038-2040, 2042-2044, 2046-2048, 2050-2052, 2054-2056, 2058-2060, 2062-2064, 2066-2068, 2070-2072, 2074-2076, 2078-2080, 2082-2084, 2086-2088, 2090-2092, 2094-2096, 2098-2100, 2102-2104, 2106-2108, 2110-2112, 2114-2116, 2118-2120, 2122-2124, 2126-2128, 2130-2132, 2134-2136, 2138-2140, 2142-2144, 2146-2148, 2150-2152, 2154-2156, 2158-2160, 2162-2164, 2166-2168, 2170-2172, 2174-2176, 2178-2180, 2182-2184, 2186-2188, 2190-2192, 2194-2196, 2198-2200, 2202-2204, 2206-2208, 2210-2212, 2214-2216, 2218-2220, 2222-2224, 2226-2228, 2230-2232, 2234-2236, 2238-2240, 2242-2244, 2246-2248, 2250-2252, 2254-2256, 2258-2260, 2262-2264, 2266-2268, 2270-2272, 2274-2276, 2278-2280, 2282-2284, 2286-2288, 2290-2292, 2294-2296, 2298-2300, 2302-2304, 2306-2308, 2310-2312, 2314-2316, 2318-2320, 2322-2324, 2326-2328, 2330-2332, 2334-2336, 2338-2340, 2342-2344, 2346-2348, 2350-2352, 2354-2356, 2358-2360, 2362-2364, 2366-2368, 2370-2372, 2374-2376, 2378-2380, 2382-2384, 2386-2388, 2390-2392, 2394-2396, 2398-2400, 2402-2404, 2406-2408, 2410-2412, 2414-2416, 2418-2420, 2422-2424, 2426-2428, 2430-2432, 2434-2436, 2438-2440, 2442-2444, 2446-2448, 2450-2452, 2454-2456, 2458-2460, 2462-2464, 2466-2468, 2470-2472, 2474-2476, 2478-2480, 2482-2484, 2486-2488, 2490-2492, 2494-2496, 2498-2500, 2502-2504, 2506-2508, 2510-2512, 2514-2516, 2518-2520, 2522-2524, 2526-2528, 2530-2532, 2534-2536, 2538-2540, 2542-2544, 2546-2548, 2550-2552, 2554-2556, 2558-2560, 2562-2564, 2566-2568, 2570-2572, 2574-2576, 2578-2580, 2582-2584, 2586-2588, 2590-2592, 2594-2596, 2598-2600, 2602-2604, 2606-2608, 2610-2612, 2614-2616, 2618-2620, 2622-2624, 2626-2628, 2630-2632, 2634-2636, 2638-2640, 2642-2644, 2646-2648, 2650-2652, 2654-2656, 2658-2660, 2662-2664, 2666-2668, 2670-2672, 2674-2676, 2678-2680, 2682-2684, 2686-2688, 2690-2692, 2694-2696, 2698-2700, 2702-2704, 2706-2708, 2710-2712, 2714-2716, 2718-2720, 2722-2724, 2726-2728, 2730-2732, 2734-2736, 2738-2740, 2742-2744, 2746-2748, 2750-2752, 2754-2756, 2758-2760, 2762-2764, 2766-2768, 2770-2772, 2774-2776, 2778-2780, 2782-2784, 2786-2788, 2790-2792, 2794-2796, 2798-2800, 2802-2804, 2806-2808, 2810-2812, 2814-2816, 2818-2820, 2822-2824, 2826-2828, 2830-2832, 2834-2836, 2838-2840, 2842-2844, 2846-2848, 2850-2852, 2854-2856, 2858-2860, 2862-2864, 2866-2868, 2870-2872, 2874-2876, 2878-2880, 2882-2884, 2886-2888, 2890-2892, 2894-2896, 2898-2900, 2902-2904, 2906-2908, 2910-2912, 2914-2916, 2918-2920, 2922-2924, 2926-2928, 2930-2932, 2934-2936, 2938-2940, 2942-2944, 2946-2948, 2950-2952, 2954-2956, 2958-2960, 2962-2964, 2966-2968, 2970-2972, 2974-2976, 2978-2980, 2982-2984, 2986-2988, 2990-2992, 2994-2996, 2998-3000, 3002-3004, 3006-3008, 3010-3012, 3014-3016, 3018-3020, 3022-3024, 3026-3028, 3030-3032, 3034-3036, 3038-3040, 3042-3044, 3046-3048, 3050-3052, 3054-3056, 3058-3060, 3062-3064, 3066-3068, 3070-3072, 3074-3076, 3078-3080, 3082-3084, 3086-3088, 3090-3092, 3094-3096, 3098-3100, 3102-3104, 3106-3108, 3110-3112, 3114-3116, 3118-3120, 3122-3124, 3126-3128, 3130-3132, 3134-3136, 3138-3140, 3142-3144, 3146-3148, 3150-3152, 3154-3156, 3158-3160, 3162-3164, 3166-3168, 3170-3172, 3174-3176, 3178-3180, 3182-3184, 3186-3188, 3190-3192, 3194-3196, 3198-3200, 3202-3204, 3206-3208, 3210-3212, 3214-3216, 3218-3220, 3222-3224, 3226-3228, 3230-3232, 3234-3236, 3238-3240, 3242-3244, 3246-3248, 3250-3252, 3254-3256, 3258-3260, 3262-3264, 3266-3268, 3270-3272, 3274-3276, 3278-3280, 3282-3284, 3286-3288, 3290-3292, 3294-3296, 3298-3300, 3302-3304, 3306-3308, 3310-3312, 3314-3316, 3318-3320, 3322-3324, 3326-3328, 3330-3332, 3334-3336, 3338-3340, 3342-3344, 3346-3348, 3350-3352, 3354-3356, 3358-3360, 3362-3364, 3366-3368, 3370-3372, 3374-3376, 3378-3380, 3382-3384, 3386-3388, 3390-3392, 3394-3396, 3398-3400, 3402-3404, 3406-3408, 3410-34

taxes, a clear saving of over \$16,000 per annum, which they have collected from the stall-holders and withheld notwithstanding the law under which they hold the property. They now propose to resell the stalls under the same unlawful rate of rental.

Second—The charter requires that the minimum rate of bids for the several stalls shall be approved by the mayor and aldermen of the city. This is

Third—The company has advertised to sell the stalls at a minimum rate of bids, and subject to the terms established by themselves, in their corporate disregard of the rights of the stockholders, and of the public interest. To this the stall-holders object.

Fourth—The company proposes to sell the stalls in a class giving to the highest bidder the first

Fifth.—The capital stock of the company is fixed by law at \$1,000,000. Only 10 per cent., or \$100,000, of the stock has been paid in. The buildings did not cost over \$200,000. The sale in 1872 of the right to occupy the stalls realized \$60,000 at least. The amount realized for the past nine years has totaled \$1,000,000, or \$100,000 per annum, or a total of \$900,000 in gross or an investment of \$1,000,000.

of \$100,000 in nine years. Assuming that only one-half of the revenues of the company were profit, it was realized over 30 per cent, per annum within the time referred to. And all this out of the public time without attempting to render the return required by the act of incorporation.

The company's officers advertise that all the otherwise profitable enterprises are profitable, and that all the grounds of objection just raised by the public are against their present proceeding have been considered by the courts in favor of the company. If this be true, the wall-holders are powerless in their premises; but it is *not* true, and can only be sustained by extending the opinion of the Supreme Court beyond the only point which in terms it

It was then decided to appoint a committee on finance, and the chair selected the following to compose it: Messrs. T. D. Daly, Theodore Barnes, Henry Miller, Lewis Kneula, and William A. George. Mr. George M. Oyster, who was present, was in-

to address the meeting, and said that as far as this undertaking had gone he had been moving outside the organization since the other day he had stepped into the Commission office and was in charge of the market company, which had been in charge of the dealers since 1870, were doing. He raised the question as to the right of the company to fix bonuses and found himself confronted by another lawyer. He requested of the Commissioner the same privilege and had secured counsel, and the conference had been held by both sides. No conclusion had been arrived at, however, and the case had been postponed till to-day. The speaker then gave a detailed account of the troubles between the company and company, and the Commission of Mary Park was held, and the

Mr. T. D. Daly reported that he had received additional subscriptions for building a new market-house. It had been suggested that the dealers buy the market company if they were willing to sell out. They said they were making nothing and probably would like to unload themselves of their burden.

Mr. Hoover was in favor of standing with the dealers. He had a talk with a gentleman who owned a lot in the vicinity of the present market, who agreed to give ten, fifteen, or twenty years' time in paying for it at 6 per cent. interest. The market dealers in two years could save enough in purchases and rents to build a market of their own. After the finance committee had transacted certain necessary business, a motion to adjourn prevailed.

Hon. George B. Loring, Commissioner of Agriculture, will leave for Atlanta on Sunday night to attend the cotton exposition to be held in that city. He has arranged with Mr. H. I. Kimball that there shall be held a convention of delegates from each of the cotton States, and is preparing an elaborate address, which he will deliver before them. In this address the statistics of the various products of the South will be carefully set forth, and Commissioner Loring will seek to im-

ness upon the people of that section their duty to avail themselves of every branch of agriculture, and not to confine their attention solely to cotton, as is that way alone can they induce capital to seek investments there and promote the prosperity of their section. He proposes to incorporate the results of this convention in his annual report.
